



**Northgate Community center and Park
PAT Meeting #7
Jan. 12, 2004
Meeting Notes**

PAT Members Present: LeAnne Hendrix-Barer, Shawn Olesen, Barbara Maxwell, John Cash, Marilyn Firlotte, Velva Maye, Michelle Rupp, Jeanne Hayden

PAT Members Not Present: Sue Geving, Frank Lufkin, William Lowe

Staff Present: Tim Motzer, Parks Project Manager; Joelle Ligon, Public Relations Specialist; Marcia Iwasaki, Mayor's Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs; Nikki McClure, 1% For Art Community Center Artist

7:08 p.m. Welcome

- Tim welcomed everyone.
- There were no changes to the agenda or to the Dec. 15, 2003 Meeting Notes.

7:10 p.m. Comments from Visitors

- There were no visitors.

7:11 p.m. Discussion from previous week's PAT e-mail exchange

- There were no e-mails for discussion.

7:12 p.m. Artist's Presentation of Refined Alternatives

- Nikki refined the window idea, but came up with some problems. After speaking with the architects and researching the plausibility of the project, Nikki determined that it was not feasible. So, she turned her focus to the Eddy.
- Nikki explained that an Eddy is a place of rest, which fits in nicely to the concept for the entrance of the community.
- She presented a drawing of her fleshed-out ideas for art along a seating wall along the outside of the community center. She would like to add more natural elements to the metal cut-outs, including birds, trees, etc. She likes the idea of showing swallows swooping down, as if into the water.
- The art would be created with a laser that cuts metal. Then the metal would be powder coated with anti-rust paint and protective graffiti coating. She chose to stay away from plexiglass because it's too easy to vandalize.

- She has researched the safety of the project. The cut outs will be 4 inches in diameter. The work will be cut into steel that is between one-quarter and three-eighths of an inch thick.
- In addition, the project will have plantings all around it. The landscaping will be behind the art wall and there will be uplighting from behind it as well. The seating wall dimensions haven't been determined exactly, but they would be about 18 inches in height. The art will be about four feet tall, making the whole piece (seating wall and art) about five and half feet tall. The seating wall is located between the play area and the plaza. It's a curved line seating area, which adds to the drama of the piece.
- The art will be bolted to an anchor inside the concrete. It will be transportable so it can be repaired – in case of damage. Also, the paint can be re-touched in case of accident.
- Quotes will be cut into the art wall. Nikki passed around a list of potential quotes that she's considering. The quotes are inter-cultural and focus on humanity and timelessness. One of the ones she pointed out to the group was: "Giving charity does not deplete wealth."
- Debra Mersky will be Nikki's mentor on this project. Debra is an experienced public artist who worked with Miller | Hull on Fischer Pavilion at Seattle Center.

7:45 p.m Question and Answer between PAT and Artist

- General comments and reactions immediately following Nikki's presentation:
 - Would like to carry the same theme elsewhere in the community center.
Can we reduce the resin insets in order to reduce the cost of the project?
(Marcia Iwasaki indicated that that would not be possible.)
 - Please don't overdo the cut outs with too many other signs of nature.
Keep it fun, but simple.
 - The seating wall will be a good place for kids to sit while they wait for their parents to come pick them up.

Roundtable discussion: each bullet represents the comments of one PAT member.

- I love the layout and the inspirational quotes. It sets a good scene for contemplation.
- The basic plan is a wonderful showcase for the art. I would like to see color integrated as much as possible. Could we continue the theme of the art

elsewhere in the project? [Tim indicated that the PAT will help choose the colors for the building. Some things are set, such as red brick, gray/silver accents on the outside of the building. Nikki commented that the architects will work to blend the colors to the best extent possible.]

- Great. I'm all for it. Let's go.
- I like it a lot. I like the sparklies
- I think this will be a great enhancement to the project. I like the quotes, especially the ones from Ralph Waldo Emerson.
- I like it a lot, but I do hate to see the tree concept go.
- This is beautiful. Score!
- Is it visible from the street? The backlighting is a good idea. It's a great place for kids waiting to get picked up. Does it obscure sight lines, making the community center less safe? Does it cast a shadow on the play area? Is there visual protection for children in the play area? Are any of the quotes from Northwest Native American culture? Is the art timeless? Is it thematic? Will it be the signature of the community center? I would like to see it be reflective of birds in the Puget Sound area. I would also stay away from politically oriented quotes.
 - The group discussed these concepts generally among themselves. They decided that they would like to use the theme throughout the community center to the extent possible. Also, the PAT left open the possibility of hiring Nikki to come back at some later date and add more of the artwork theme throughout the community center.
 - The group took a vote to support *The Eddy* as the 1% For Art project at the Community Center

8:15 p.m Discussion of bus shelter

- Recent discussions with Metro and Seattle Department of Transportation have indicated that the bus shelter may need to be placed south of the 5th Avenue entrance to the community center. PAT members were not pleased with this potential development.

8:30 p.m Wrap up

- We will have a regular PAT public meeting on Jan. 26, 2004 at 7 p.m.

- We will have our last public meeting for the Northgate project on Monday, Feb. 23, 2004.

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